

# PSA (Protective Services for Adults) Services

**Overview:** Adults have more Civil Rights than children. Adults can live where they want; they can live with whom they want to; they can live how they want to ... as long as the adult can understand the risk(s) they are facing and can adequately explain the basis for their decisions.

Even when capacity is in question an adult can not be removed from an unsafe situation unless:

- either there is a basis for involuntary hospitalization (2 PC) or
- the legal intervention, guardianship, is implemented.

**Three criteria** that must be met for PSA eligibility.

## Criteria number 1

Person has to be 18 years of age or older and must have a physical and/or mental incapacity, that prevents that person from protecting themselves from risk or harm either

- through their own actions or the actions of others
- or from meeting basic essential needs.

Disability and/or advanced age alone does not automatically make an individual eligible for PSA.

## Criteria Number 2

A person must be at risk of harm.

### 1) Harm from Others ...

- Physical Abuse- any intentional act that causes injury or harm, for example, slapping, hitting, punching, burning.
- Psychological/Verbal Abuse, for example, the infliction of emotional pain or distress. Examples are threats, humiliation, cursing, intimidation, yelling at, and coercion.
- Financial Abuse/Exploitation – the theft or misuse of a person's income and/or resources. Examples can be fraud, forgery, transfers of assets, changes of names on accounts or property, POA abuse, and theft of possessions, money.
- Sexual Abuse - any non-consensual sexual contact or consensual sexual contact with an individual who no longer has capacity to consent, (advanced dementia or serious mental illness) or with an individual who never had the capacity to consent, (severe developmental disability).
- Caregiver Neglect, for example, the failure to meet the needs of person being cared for.

### 2) Self Neglect ... the failure of an individual to maintain adequate Housing, clothing, food, and/or medical care. Home may have severe clutter, excessive number of animals, be without needed utilities and /or filthy.

Note: **APS is not a preventive service** – risk of harm must be identified.

### Criteria Number 3

There must be no one willing and able to assist responsibly including family members, friends or another agency already involved.

Note: APS does not open cases on clients that reside in the hospital or in nursing home settings.

### Entry Point for PSA Referral

Intake Unit receives referral at phone number 854-3232. Demographic information is taken. Afterwards:

- A phone call is received from an Intake Unit worker, who either rejects or accepts for field team assessment. Phone numbers for Intake workers are: 854-3195, 854-3196 or 854-3197.
- PSA assessment is completed by field worker.
- If individual is determined to be eligible for PSA a case is opened and the client is visited on at least a once a month basis for as long as the person continues to be eligible for PSA

### Guardianship

Decision is made whether to transfer case to the Guardianship Team based on degree of risk identified combined with the individual's understanding of the risk they are facing.

### Family Type Adult Homes

These homes provide a family type atmosphere for up to 4 persons who have been determined by a physician to require the supervision and support services these homes provide. Adults will have to share a room with others living in the home. They are an alternative to the larger more impersonal proprietary adult homes. Payment is an enhanced SSI rate or private pay.

### Other Services provided:

- **Financial Management:** assist client with bill paying.
- **Representative Payee:** managing a client's social security income, including bill paying and budgeting personal allowances *when there is no one else, person or agency, available to provide this service.*
- **Social Admissions at hospitals** are authorized when a plan of action has been identified to establish a safe placement for a client, but there is no current safe residence for the individual to reside in. Most social admissions are requested by hospital staff. Social Admissions are approved for seven days and can be extended for up to 30 days if needed to complete an identified placement plan. Medical clearance and the identification of a discharge plan to be pursued are required before approval of social admission is given.